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ENVELOPE

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ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 032059Z APR 98
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RHFPAAA/UTAS RAMSTEIN AB GE
RHHJMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINPAC HONOLULU HI//J2CD/J5//
RUEDAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH
RUCBAIC/LANTCOM IDHS NORFOLK VA
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE//DIA REP//
RUFGAID/USCINCEUR INTEL VAHINGEN GE
RUHPQUA/COMTHIRDFLT
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//CC/DOA//
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 031249Z APR 98
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6155
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:ISA/DPMO:JCSD//
INFO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/[REDACTED] (b) (3)
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RUHEMAD/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//JOL//
RUHVAAA/COMMCEN HICKAM AFB HI//USACILHI//
RUAGKFC/CINC UNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RUFDGDU/DIRECTOR MARSHALL CENTER GARMISCH GE//ECMC-ES//
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 5616
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 3141
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 2957
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 5100
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 0061
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 2342
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 9758
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0339
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 0245
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU 1767
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG 6242
RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 3989
RUEHVK/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK 4510
RULSNDX/NAVHISTCEN WASHDC

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 008472

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL, PHUM, PINR, RS

SUBJECT: JCSD-MOSCOW INTERVIEW WITH RETIRED
SOVIET KOREAN-WAR ERA AIRCRAFT MECHANIC, ALEKSANDR
ALEKSANDROVICH ZAITSEV

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 16-26, 1998, JOINT COMMISSION
SUPPORT DIRECTORATE (JCSD)- MOSCOW REPRESENTATIVES
DANZ BLASSER AND RICHARD HARRISON TRAVELED TO ST.
PETERSBURG TO PURSUE LEADS RELATING TO THE KOREAN
WAR. WHILE THERE, THEY MET WITH ALEKSANDR
ALEKSANDROVICH ZAITSEV, WHO WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE
LIMITED INFORMATION ON U.S. POWS AND EXTENSIVE
INFORMATION ON FORMER SOVIET PERSONNEL WHO SERVED
IN KOREA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 17, 1998, JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT
BLASSER AND RICHARD HARRISON MET WITH ALEKSANDR
ALEKSANDROVICH ZAITSEV, A RETIRED SOVIET AIRCRAFT
ENGINEER WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR. ZAITSEV
(197342 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. NOVOSIBIRSKAYA 2, KV.
8; TEL: 812-246-20-66) WAS BORN IN 1930 IN THE
VILLAGE OF ZAPULENYA, IN THE LUGA DISTRICT OF THE
LENINGRAD OBLAST. HE BEGAN HIS MILITARY SERVICE
AS A FLYER IN 1950. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED A
SPECIAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL, STARTING IN 1947. HE
RETIRED FROM THE SERVICE AS A MAJOR IN 1973. AS A
CIVILIAN, HE WORKED AS A MECHANICAL INSPECTOR AND
FIRE INSPECTOR AMONG OTHER JOBS. HE HAS BEEN
FULLY RETIRED SINCE 1996.

3. ZAITSEV SAID THAT HE SERVED IN A UNIT NEAR
LENINGRAD, WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN TRAINING NIGHT-
FLYING PILOTS ("NOCHNIKI"). THIS UNIT BECAME THE
298TH FIGHTER AVIATION REGIMENT (FAR). THE
REGIMENT ARRIVED IN CHINA IN JANUARY, 1953, AND
DEPARTED FOR THE USSR IN JUNE, 1954. THE REGIMENT
TRAINED CHINESE PILOTS IN THE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE
KOREAN ARMISTICE. ZAITSEV SAID THAT THE REGIMENT
WAS BROKEN UP IN LATVIA IN 1961, AND THUS

MAINTAINS NO MUSEUM.

4. ZAITSEV SAID THAT THE 298TH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EIGHT CONFIRMED SHOOTDOWNS OF U.N. AIRCRAFT AND FOUR UNCONFIRMED KILLS. HE SAID THAT THE 298TH FAR LOST ONE PILOT KILLED DURING THE WAR. THIS WAS NIKOLAY IVANOVICH SHKURKO, WHO CRASHED WHILE LANDING. ZAITSEV SAID THAT HE WAS TAKEN TO DALNIY, CHINA FOR BURIAL AT THE RUSSIAN CEMETERY. HE ADDED THAT MANY OF THESE GRAVES WERE LATER DEFACED BY THE CHINESE DURING THE "CULTURAL REVOLUTION."

5. ZAITSEV SAID THAT HE ONCE SAW A CAPTURED U.S. PILOT AT THE REGIMENTAL AIRFIELD AT ANDUN. HE IDENTIFIED THE PILOT AS "COLONEL FISHER." (JCSD NOTE: LLT HAROLD E. FISCHER WAS SHOT DOWN ON APRIL 7, 1953, REPORTEDLY BY A SR LT BERELIDZE, OF THE 298TH. FISCHER WAS TAKEN PRISONER, TRIED AND CONVICTED AS AN AIR PIRATE, AND REPATRIATED ON MAY 31, 1955). ZAITSEV SAID THAT FISHER HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN NOT FAR FROM THE 298TH REGIMENT'S AIRFIELD AND HAD BEEN TAKEN TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. HE SAID THAT FISHER REMAINED WITH THE REGIMENT UNTIL THE EVENING OF THE DAY HE WAS SHOT DOWN. HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO THE HANDLING OF FISHER.

6. ZAITSEV SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS ONLY ENCOUNTER ABOUT ANY U.S. POWS HELD IN NORTH KOREA OR CHINA, NOR ANYTHING REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF U.S. POWS TO THE USSR.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/

7. ZAITSEV ADDED THAT HE HAD NEVER TAKEN PART IN ANY OF THE SEARCH GROUPS SENT OUT BY THE REGIMENT TO VERIFY SHOOTDOWN CLAIMS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT SR SGT DMITRIY FOTIYEVICH BAKISOV (355041 STAVROPOL, UL. MIRA 426, KOR. 1, KV. 27; TEL: 86522-2-00-09) MIGHT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THESE SEARCHES.

8. ZAITSEV IS THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE 298TH FIGHTER AVIATION REGIMENT'S VETERAN'S COMMITTEE, AND WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE TEAM WITH A WEALTH OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOSE VETERANS STILL LIVING. THESE ARE: 1) MIKHAIL MIKHAILOVICH ALEKSEYEV (394066 VORONEZH, UL. OLEKO DUNDICHA 15, KV. 36; TEL: 07322-3-22-21), A MECHANIC; 2) YAKOV IVANOVICH BARYSHEV (193315 ST. PETERSBURG, PROSPEKT BOLSHEVIKOV 71, KOR. 2, KV. 33; TEL: 812-263-79-67), A MECHANIC; 3) BORIS SERGEYEVICH VOLONTSEVICH (197341 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. KOROLEVA 19, KV. 258; TEL: 812-306-16-14), A MECHANIC; 4) PAVEL VASILYEVICH GUSEV (443114 SAMARA, PROSPEKT KIROVA 301, KV. 45), A MECHANIC; 5) ALEKSEY DOROFEYEV (LITHUANIA, 235404 SIALUI, UL

RADZISHTKIS 106, KV. 34), A MECHANIC; 6) MIKHAIL DAVIDOVICH (ST. PETERSBURG, UL. SEDOVA 86, KV. 132), A MECHANIC; 7) PAVEL ALEKSEYEVICH DZHIOYEV (SEVERNAYA OSSETIYA 363121, SELO NOGIR, UL. ROMANENKO 89), A MECHANIC; 8) YURIY NIKIFOROVICH YEPEIKIN (398002 LIPETSK, UL. KOSMONAVTOV 5, KV. 45), A MECHANIC; 9) CAPT VIKTOR DMITRIYEVICH YERSHOV (305007 KURSK, UL. DEINEKE 12, KV. 46; TEL: 07122-5-01-24) A PILOT; 10) ALEKSANDR MIKHAILOVICH ZHARKOV (193174 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. SHELGUNOVA 4, KV. 51; TEL: 812-262-25-86), A PILOT; 11) LEONID SERGEYEVICH IVANOV (394051 VORONEZH, UL. MARSHAKA 23, KV. 7; TEL: 0732-33-23-71), A PILOT; 12) VASILIIY NIKOLAYEVICH IVANOV (ESTONIA, 203600 TURNU, UL. UUS-SAUGA 39, KV. 6), A MECHANIC; 13) STEPAN ALEKSEYEVICH IVANOV (194156 ST. PETERSBURG, PROSPEKT KARLA MARKSA 83, KV. 83), A MECHANIC; 14) IVAN VASILYEVICH ISKORNEV (195298 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. LENS KAYA 4, KOR. 3, KV. 378), A STAFF OFFICER; 15) FEDOR NIKOLAYEVICH KUZNETSOV (194021 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. SHATELENA 16, KV. 46; TEL: 812-247-84-45); 16) NIKOLAY VLADIMIROVICH KOSMYLIN (443112 ST. PETERSBURG, UL. KRASNOGVARDEISKAYA 4, KV. 60), A MECHANIC; 17) MIKHAIL KUTUYEV (LATVIA, 228200 YEKABPILS, UL. DMITRIYEVICH LIZUNOV (354583 SOCHI, UL. SLAVINSKAYA 3), A STAFF OFFICER; 19) SERGEY GEORGIYEVICH LOGINOV (LATVIA, 226019 RIGA, UL. LENTS 373, KV. 5), A MECHANIC; 20) BORIS ISAYEVICH AKHMETZYATOV (450071 UFA, UL. 50-LETIYA SSSR 47, KV. 9; TEL: 34722-4-11-15), A MECHANIC; 21) IVAN ANTONOVICH MARCHENKO (255020 KIEV OBLAST, BROVARIY, UL. 50-LETIYA VLKSM 6, KV. 67), A MECHANIC; 22) NIKOLAY KUZMICH MARCHENKO (LATVIA, 226024 RIGA, UL. SELTSIYEMA 7, KV. 73), A MECHANIC; 23) ANDREY MARKOVICH MELNIK (175200 NOVGOROD OBLAST, STARAYA RUSSA, DOM 13, KV. 34), REGIMENTAL ENGINEER; 24) LARISA YEVGENYEVNA NAGRINA (142100 MOSCOW OBLAST, PODOLSK, UL. LENINA 150A, KV. 69), WHOSE DECEASED FATHER, YEVGENIY ALEKSANDROVICH NAGRIN, WAS THE REGIMENTAL CHIEF OF STAFF. HE MAY HAVE LEFT A MANUSCRIPT OF HIS

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/
MEMOIRS; 25) MAGAZ NURULYEVICH NURULIN (414024 ASTRAKHAN, UL. BOGDANA KHMELNITSKOGO 5, KV. 23), A MECHANIC; 26) NIKOLAY ALEKSANDROVICH NIKOLAYEV (LATVIA, 226039 RIGA, UL. GAGARINA 26, KV. 19), A MECHANIC; 27) ALEKSANDR YEFREMOVICH PAKHMUTOV (305004 KURSK, UL. RADISHCHEVA 69, KOR. 3, KV. 28; TEL: 07122-2-60-19), CHIEF OF THE REGIMENTAL "SPECIAL SECTION"; 28) VAKHTANG IVANOVICH PRUIDZE (GEORGIA, 383409, ZAGES STATION, UL. AFGANSKAYA 30), A PILOT; 29) CAPT NILOLAY IVANOVICH SOKOLOV (MOLDOVA, 278000 TIRASPOL, UL. FEDKO 34, KV. 96), REGIMENTAL ARMAMENTS ENGINEER; 30) LT BORIS GRIGORYEVICH KHURTIN (LATVIA, 226057 RIGA, UL.

ROBERTA EIKHE 24, KV. 8), A MECHANIC; 31) CAPT
VASILIIY IVANOVICH SHOITOV (LATVIA, 226055 RIGA,
UL. TERESHKOVOI 31A, KV. 10), A PILOT, AND; 32)
E.E. YEREMIN (UKRAINE, 257005 CHERKASSY, UL. LAZO
57/2 KV. 20), UNKNOWN PROFESSION.

9. JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE-MOSCOW
SENDS. COLLINS

ADMIN

BT
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